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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 22 June 1950

SUBJECT West Commission with the Central
Secretariat of the SED in Berlin

NO. OF PAGES 3

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It was learned from members [redacted] of the SED (German Socialist Unity Party) that a new section, with the designation Ges. Commission, was established some months ago in the SED Central Secretariat in Berlin.

1. Missions:

The section was established in an attempt to create the closest possible contact between the SLD Central Secretariat and the party headquarters of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) in the Western Zones of Germany.

The section is to:

- a. Supply the KPD in Western Germany with propaganda and other material.
- b. Give financial support to the KPD.
- c. Exchange persons.
- d. Evaluate information from Western Germany.
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Auth. [unclear] [unclear]

2. Organization and personnel:

As a result of the importance of these missions, the West Commission soon became one of the largest and most important sections of the Central Secretariat.

- a. Richard Stahlmann is chief of the section. Only in the most urgent cases is he personally available.
- b. Karl Schirdewan outwardly directs the section.
- c. Walter Hnehnell has charge of the courier service for Western Germany. He is in Frankfurt/Main about three times a month.
- d. Professor Dr. Hans Meyer of Leipzig University

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acts as liaison man with the SDA (Social Democratic Action) in Frankfurt/Main.



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f. Hans Mueller, chairman of the SDA in East Berlin, is in close contact with the West Commission.

g. An office for university questions has recently been established in the West Commission. Its chief is Siegfried Wagner. He was second chairman of the student council at Leipzig University before the end of 1949. In January 1950 he had charge of the preparations of the elections of the student councils in the Soviet Zone of Germany. The university section is to establish contact with Free German Youth (FDJ) university groups in Western Germany. Wagner's liaison men for Western Germany are Hermann Otto, a student from Mainz (K 51/A 35) or Frankfurt/Main, and Ruth Kolb, a woman student from Frankfurt/Main.

h. The West Commission is also to exchange persons (see above) including Western German Communists, who are to move to the Soviet Zone of Germany. Such Communists are forbidden by the Party Headquarters to move to the Soviet Zone of Germany independently, allegedly because every person is needed in Western Germany.

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Comment:

The following information is available on the persons mentioned:

(1) Richard Stahlmann was known to be chief of the cadre section of the SDA. He worked as an editor with the Europa-Nachricht.

(2) Dr. Karl Schindwein was chief of the personnel section in the SDA Central Secretariat. He is a member of the committee of the Resistance Fighters to which he was elected in September 1949. He contributed an article to the newspaper Neues Deutschland (New Germany) on 31 January 1950 on the "Ideological and Political Consolidation of the Communist Party of Germany".

(3) Professor Dr. Hans Mayer is assistant professor for cultural history and cultural policy at Leipzig University. He is one of the prominent personalities in the VVN (Association of the Victims of Nazism), secretary of the Fiapp and a correspondent of the Communist newspaper For a Just Peace, for the People's Democracy. He has numerous connections in the Western zones of Germany, particularly among KPD top functionaries, and makes frequent trips to Western Germany.

(4) Hans Mueller was reported to be an observer of East Berlin in the Chamber of the Laender of the German Democratic Republic.

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(5) Siegfried Wagner is an SDA member and [redacted] a prominent member of the Conference of the Chairmen of the Student Councils in the Soviet Zone of Germany. He recently

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25X1 attended conferences of Communist students and KPD members in
Georgenthal (ca 51/J 05), Thuringia. [redacted]

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(6) Ruth Holz was reported [redacted] to work in the
personnel section of the KPD headquarters in Frankfurt/Main.

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